



August 29, 2018

Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Ex Parte Presentation, Accelerating Wireless Broadband Deployment by Removing Barriers to Infrastructure Investment, WT Docket No. 17-79; Accelerating Wireline Broadband Deployment by Removing Barriers to Infrastructure Investment, WC Docket No. 17-84

Dear Chairman Pai and Commissioners Carr, O'Rielly, and Rosenworcel,

At the National Foundation for Women Legislators (NFWL), our vision is to empower elected women to lead and shape the future of our country. Our members are elected women at all levels of government, from cities and counties up to the state and federal level. They shape and improve their neighborhoods, cities, and states through the implementation of thoughtful public policy.

One area that touches every level of government is the need to invest and upgrade our infrastructure. This includes not just bridges and roads but a critical part of our 21<sup>st</sup> century economy: access to quality advanced broadband wireline and wireless services for all communities.

Reliable connectivity is an essential tool for our cities and states. From education to healthcare, the transformative power of the Internet has reshaped old and created new industries across the country. Reliable connectivity includes both wired and wireless broadband. Advances in wired broadband hold the promise of powering 5G networks as well as providing multi-gigabit speeds that will spur economic development and create new jobs. NFWL is also encouraged by the promise of next generation wireless networks, including 5G and Wi-Fi, to create new opportunities and industries.

Among other benefits, fostering advanced broadband wireline and wireless networks will help support smart communities. City infrastructure enabled by 5G, Wi-Fi and ultrafast wireline networks will make citizens' lives safer and more efficient – all while reducing environmental impacts. From smart traffic infrastructure that improves safety and the flow of vehicles, to city systems that use sensors to reduce energy consumption, smart community resources will come to improve the lives of all citizens.

To ensure the benefits of advanced wired and wireless broadband are seen and felt in all our communities, we encourage the Federal Communications Commission to take steps to update outdated regulations where possible, while providing cities, counties and states the flexibility they need. With the growing convergence of wired and wireless services, we urge the Commission to take concurrent steps to facilitate the deployment of wired and wireless infrastructure, including 5G and Wi-Fi.

Modern networks require modern digital infrastructure. Thank you for the Commission's efforts to remove barriers to the deployment of these advanced wireline and wireless broadband networks,

Sincerely,

Representative Kimberly Dudik (MT)  
NFWL Chair